

BOOKS ARE THE IDEAL GIFTS

WHO HATH A BOOK.

Who hath a book
Hath friends at hand;
And gold and gear
At his command;
And rich estate,
If he but look,
Is held by him
Who hath a book.

Who hath a book
May fight, or sing,
Or ride, or rule,
Or—anything!
Or he may dwell
In humble hut,
Or palace, ere
The book be shut.

Who hath a book
Hath goodly fare,
And happiness
Beyond compare,
Or he may bow
'Neath sorrow's weight,
If but the book
Such things relate.

Who hath a book
Hath but to read,
And he may be
A King, indeed.
His kingdom is
His inglenook—
All this is his
Who hath a book.

—W. D. NESBIT.



CHRISTMAS NEWS FROM BOOKLAND

The publishers are making many beautiful gift editions of the popular novels. "Hearts Courageous," the story of the Declaration of Independence, is now printed on Marlowe paper and issued in a special binding, with six pictures by A. B. Wenzell. Printed on Japan paper, and hand colored by M. Haider.

Another series of gift editions, printed on rice paper and bound in flexible leather, includes "Alice of Old Vincennes," "Lazarre," "The Mississippi Bubble" and other equally popular titles. They are beautiful books and especially suited for presentation.

"The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus" is a book for which all the little ones have been waiting for generations and generations. It tells who Santa Claus really was, how he became the children's saint and benefactor, where his workshop was and is, and how he became possessed of the marvelous sleigh and reindeer team. How Mr. Baum learned the facts is his own secret, but he knows all about it, and the fortunate children who get his book in the package

brought them this year by good old Santa will know as much as he does when they get to the last page.

In the new edition of Riley's "An Old Sweetheart of Mine" the illustrations show Christy at his best, and at the same time in a field that he has never before entered—the drawing of children. He has never done anything better than the little "sweetheart" in pink sunbonnet, or the barefoot boy as he cuts her initials in the bark of the old tree. When Mr. Christy had finished his drawings he submitted them to Mr. Riley. The author was delighted with the artist's interpretation of his poem, and said when he heard that Mr. Christy was born and brought up on an Ohio farm, "Well, I didn't think you could ever learn by walking on Fifth avenue that an embarrassed barefoot boy stood with the toes of one foot clinging for comfort and encouragement to the instep of the other."

A notable novel is "Francezka," by Molly Elliot Seawell. One hails its true workmanship, its air of capability, breeding and natural distinction, as one would hail the companionship of a gentleman. Miss Seawell's

scholarship and craftsmanship, her thorough acquaintance with the polite world, her every attribute of cultured, charming womanhood, is imprinted on each page. The story is one of youth, splendor and tragedy told with an art which links it with summer dreams.

The dealers report that more than ever before books will form a large proportion of the Christmas gifts. The gift of a book is a compliment to the tastes of both the giver and the receiver, and the many beautiful and inexpensive editions of standard authors which the publishers have made for this holiday season afford a wide choice. A book has always more dignity than gifts much more expensive.

In "The Master of Appleby" Mr. Lynde has told a splendidly vital story. It is an eighteenth century romance of the Carolinas, and viewed either as a delightful entertainment or a skillful and finished piece of literary art, is easily one of the most important of recent novels. One cannot read a dozen pages without realizing that the author has mastered the rare magic of the story-teller's art.

The publishers have made a new edition of the clever stories of children by Clara Vawter, which were so delightfully illustrated by her brother, Will Vawter. In the present edition the many little thumbnail sketches which run around the margins are printed in tints.

It would be difficult to imagine a book that would appeal to the hearts of all little girls more than does "The Story of Live Dolls." This chronicle relates how on a certain June afternoon all of the dolls in Cloverdale suddenly became alive by order of the queen. The capital pictures which Virginia Keep has furnished add much to its attractiveness.

In the beautiful volume "Dream Children," Elizabeth B. Brownell has collected the stories of the famous children of English prose and poetry and has illustrated them with sixty camera studies from life. This volume marks the highest achievements in photographic art in this country.

Never was a better story written for boys than "The Master Key," an electrical fairy tale, by L. Frank Baum. This prince of

story tellers has related a story of adventure so filled with wonders that rare will be the boy who does not find it fascinating.

In "Little Saint Sunshine" Dr. Goss has told a Christmas story of unusual beauty. It is a simple story of the transforming power of child-love and trust and tells anew one of the great Christmas lessons; that the world, which seems at times rough and heartless, ever responds to the appeal of gentleness and faith.

A California critic in writing of George Horton's vivid story of Chicago life, "The Long Straight Road," has said: "It is not a long way after Balzac, with all that Frenchman's capacity for 'catching the manners living as they rise.' It may be said in all truthfulness that we have now an American 'Comedie Humaine.'"

A new book by the author of "The Redemption of David Corson" is called "The Loom of Life," the title being taken from the quotation by Henry Ward Beecher:

"We sleep, but the loom of life never stops, and the pattern which was weaving when the sun went down is weaving when it comes up to-morrow."

In this book Mr. Goss's splendid powers have been demonstrated afresh. It alone is strong enough, big enough, important enough, enough suggesting and informing, to make a reputation for anyone.

"Edges," the book by Alice Woods, is being received with much favor by the discerning.

It is a love story with an atmosphere of the sea and of the out-of-doors world that is so charming when found between the leaves of a book. Throughout, the book is marked by an evident inner love of things rather than for their conventional forms.

The make-up of the book is unusually attractive.

"The Mississippi Bubble" is now recognized as belonging to the limited number of truly great romances. Into this striking story of how, by a woman's grace, the star of good fortune rose and set, and finally rose again for John Law, of Lauriston, the famous Scotch promoter, Mr. Hough has woven with consummate art the epic of the great, restless, Westward sweep of civilization.